

30 April 1951

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Manpower and Personnel Policies
Washington, D.C.

Dear Madam Secretary:

On 5 March we forwarded a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense requesting that the armed services induct and train each year 150 selected candidates who would be assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency after their military service. Subsequently I learned from General Bradley that the Chiefs of Staff had certain reservations on this program because of budgetary considerations. I suggested to General Bradley that the program be undertaken on a two-year basis, after which it be reviewed. In addition, I stated that all of these individuals could be considered as part of the CIA quota for military personnel to be assigned to this Agency, and that for those few persons whom we desired to have in a civilian capacity, we would reimburse the military services for the cost of training. I pointed out to General Bradley that this in effect would mean that, except for those few whom we desired as civilians, the military services would retain the others as reserve officers whom they could use after their tour with the CIA, and that the net difference in cost of training would be zero.

The above proposal appears to me to be perfectly innocuous; it would not add to the military budget, and the services would be protected against any loss.

Inasmuch as the personnel demands of this agency are extremely pressing, I would be grateful for an early decision.

Sincerely,

/s/

Walter B. Smith
Director

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